

INTRODUCTION

The SARATSO (State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders) Review and Training Committees select risk assessment instruments for the state of California, monitor risk assessments, and sponsor trainings on scoring risk assessment tools. (Pen. Code, §§ 290.03-290.08.) This policies and procedures manual is intended to assist those agencies mandated to perform sex offender risk assessment. The current instruments mandated for use in California are the Static-99 (adult males) and the JSORRAT-II (juvenile males). The SARATSO Review Committee has not yet selected a dynamic risk assessment instrument. The Committee has determined that currently no instrument meets the statutory criteria in California for selecting a risk assessment instrument for females, either adult or juvenile.

Many helpful resources can be found on the SARATSO web site at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”), including a document explaining the statutes governing the risk assessment process. To access the web site, go to www.cdcr.gov. Click on the link to “Sex Offender Management Resources” on the left side of the home page, followed by the link to “State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders (SARATSO) Committee” in the right hand column, halfway down the web page. There is an e-mail address provided for SARATSO if you have questions not answered in the manual.

For questions on scoring the instruments, see below. For legal questions about risk assessment, contact SARATSO Review Committee member Deputy Attorney General Janet Neeley at janet.neeley@doj.ca.gov.

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I. TRAINING

A. Mandatory Certification Before Scoring Risk Assessments

Only persons who have received the official SARATSO training can legally perform sex offender risk assessment in California. The SARATSO Committee retains experts in the field of risk assessment who instruct persons from Probation, Parole, and the Department of Mental Health (DMH). The persons trained by the experts to score the risk assessment instruments are known as the “super-trainers.” Once a super-trainer has been certified by SARATSO as having successfully completed the expert training course, he or she is authorized to train others within his or her organization to score the risk assessment instrument.

B. Use of Official SARATSO Curriculum Required

The super-trainer must use the authorized SARATSO curriculum to train within their agencies. The official Power Point presentation which must be used is available via e-mail from the SARATSO Committee to certified super-trainers. E-mail SARATSO staff for a copy of the training you need (see above for SARATSO web site address and DMH e-mail contact).

When training scorers, super-trainers should bring five actual cases, including the documents in each case file, and use the cases as an exam for the scorers. The scorers, in order to pass the training, would go through the documents in each case, find the information needed to score the instrument, and then obtain a score. If a scorer is unable to obtain a perfect record on scoring the five cases, a mentor should be assigned by that agency to review the scorer’s cases for a period of time. The SARATSO Committee recommends that in addition, super-trainers review the first several cases scored by new scorers whenever possible.

C. Super-Trainers Must Submit Names of Persons Certified to Do Assessments To the SARATSO Committee Within Probation, Parole and DMH

The SARATSO Committee keeps a list of all probation, parole and Department of Mental Health (“DMH”) personnel who have been trained and are certified to perform risk assessments, along with the date of training. Within one week of the training, each super-trainer should submit the names of persons within their agencies whom they have certified to score the risk assessment instruments to the SARATSO Committee. These can be submitted by e-mailing SARATSO staff. List the name of the person certified to score the instrument, and the date of training.

D. Training Schedule

The SARATSO web site (see Introduction) posts scheduled trainings. Trainings are conducted every other year. All persons who are scoring risk assessment instruments must be re-trained every two years. (Pen. Code, § 290.05(d).) To sign up for a scheduled training, e-mail SARATSO staff to check availability.

II. SCORING RISK ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

A. SARATSO Qualified Scorer

Only persons who have taken the official SARATSO training, given either by a SARATSO-retained expert or by a super-trainer who was certified by a SARATSO expert, and who have passed the test and been certified as capable of performing the task, are authorized to score the risk assessment instruments. It is expected that the professionals using the risk assessment instruments adopted by the SARATSO Committee will consider and adhere to the limitations of the tool which are stated in the coding instructions for that tool.

Effective January 1, 2010, local law enforcement agencies may assess eligible adult sex offenders on their Penal Code section 290 case loads, either by (1) their own qualified personnel who have successfully completed SARATSO training, or (2) entering into an MOU with Probation and have Probation personnel score the requested registrant. Also, the individual registrant may request assessment on a form available at the registering agency. If the registrant has been living in the community for more than 10 years, he is not eligible to be assessed unless he committed a new sex offense (misdemeanor or felony) during that period, or a new serious felony, as defined in Penal Code section 1192.7(c).

B. Where to Find the Scoring Sheets and Static-99 Coding Rules or JSORRAT-II Scoring Guidelines

The scoring sheets and Static-99 coding rules or JSORRAT-II scoring guidelines can be downloaded from the CDCR web site and the DOJ Risk Assessment Message Board on CLEW.

C. When Risk Assessments Must Be Scored

Risk assessment must be done by probation pre-sentencing. It must be done again 4-10 months prior to release from a sentence served at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), or 4-10 months prior to release from placement at a DMH facility. All sex offender registrants on a probation caseload on January 1, 2010, must have been assessed.

D. Sex Offenders Eligible to be Scored

The following three matrix tables illustrate when a sex offender can be scored on an instrument, and which instrument should be used, subject to the applicable coding rules and guidelines.¹ A narrative explanation follows these tables.

¹ For example, the Static-99 Coding Rules do not recommend its application for individuals whose only offenses involve consensual sexual activity with a similar age peer (meaning with a 10-year age range with a victim over 12), soliciting or offering prostitution services, possessing child pornography, etc.... By comparison, the JSORRAT-II may be applied to any sexual offense prohibited by statute, including attempts and conspiracies.

Table 1: Probation Department is completing the SARATSO Assessment

Probation Department SARATSO Assessment of Male Offender		
Matrix for Determining Who to Complete SARATSO Assessment Tool on, When to Complete, and Which Assessment Instrument to Use		
Court of record: Adult or Juvenile Court Age at time of assessment Age at time of eligible offense Sex offender registration status	SARATSO Tool, when Probation conducts assessment	
	Static 99	JSORRATT-II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 years old or more at time of assessment • Age 18 years old or more at time of eligible offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	Yes Pre-sentencing	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 years old or more at time of assessment • Age 16 or 17 at time of eligible offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	Yes Pre-sentencing	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 years old or more at time of assessment • Under age 16 at time of offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	No	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 17 years old or less at time of assessment and offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	No	Yes Pre-sentencing

Table 2: CDCR, DJJ or DMH is completing SARATSO Assessment

CDCR, DJJ or DMH SARATSO Assessment Male Offender		
Matrix for Determining Who to Complete SARATSO Assessment Tool on, When to Complete, and Which Assessment Instrument to Use		
Court of record: Adult or Juvenile Court Age at time of assessment Age at time of eligible offense Sex offender registration status	SARATSO Tool, when CDCR, DJJ or DMH conducts assessment	
	Static 99	JSORRATT-II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 years old or more at time of assessment • Age 18 years old or more at time of eligible offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	Yes 4-10 months prior to release	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 years old or more at time of assessment • Age 16 or 17 at time of eligible offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	Yes 4-10 months prior to release	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 years old or more at time of assessment • Under age 16 at time of offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	No	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 17 years old or less at time of assessment and offense • If Sex Offender Registration is required or Probation recommends Court order requirement to register 	No	Yes 4-10 months prior to release

Table 3: Simple matrix to determine which assessment to use based on age only (does not address court of record, sex offender registration status, Probation recommendations, or who conducts the assessment and when)

Matrix for Determining SARATSO Assessment Tool to Complete on Male Juveniles and Adults		
Age of offender and age at time of offense	Static 99	JSORRATT-II
18 years old or more at time of SARATSO assessment and at time of eligible offense	Yes	No
18 years old or more at time of SARATSO assessment and age 16 or 17 at time of eligible offense	Yes	No
18 years old or more at time of SARATSO assessment and under age 16 at time of offense	No	No
Under age 18 at time of SARATSO assessment and under age 18 at time of offense	No	Yes

1. Adult Sex Offenders

- Adult male sex offenders (offense committed at or after age 18) whose eligible offense requires mandatory registration as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code section 290 are eligible for assessment and must be assessed with the Static-99.
- Adult male sex offenders (offense committed at or after age 18) whose eligible offense was sexually motivated, but whose offense does not require mandatory registration under Penal Code section 290, must be assessed if probation is recommended that the sentencing court impose a requirement to register as a sex offender.

2. Juvenile Sex Offenders

- Juvenile male sex offenders who are adjudicated for a sex offense requiring juvenile registration (Pen. Code, § 290.008), should be assessed using the JSORRAT-II pre-sentencing if probation is recommending placement at CDCR/DJJ, providing the juvenile is not yet 18 at the time of the assessment. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 706.) If the juvenile is 18 or older at time of assessment, the assessment should be done with the Static-99, providing the sex offense was committed when the juvenile was 16 or 17.

- Juvenile males who are convicted in adult proceedings for a sex offense requiring mandatory registration pursuant to Penal Code section 290 should be assessed pre-sentencing using the JSORRAT-II if the juvenile is under 18, and using the Static-99 if the juvenile is 18 or older, providing the sex offense was committed when the offender was 16 or 17. If the offense was committed at a younger age, the person is not eligible to be assessed on any risk assessment tool.
- Juvenile males who are convicted in adult proceedings for an offense which does not require mandatory registration under Penal Code section 290, but as to whom probation is recommending registration be ordered at sentencing pursuant to Penal Code section 290.006, should be assessed using the appropriate risk assessment tool (see 2, above).²

E. Obtaining Records Needed for Scoring

Persons scoring risk assessment instruments are authorized by law to receive any record needed to complete the assessment, including but not limited to criminal history records, police and probation reports, judicial records, juvenile records, psychological evaluations and psychiatric hospital reports, sexually violent predator treatment program reports, and sealed records. The right to obtain these and other necessary records to score the risk assessment instrument exists notwithstanding any other provision of law. (Pen. Code, § 290.07.)

F. Conflicting Facts in Records

If there is a conflict between facts in two different records, the most reliable record should be used. For example, facts in a preliminary hearing transcript must be used rather than conflicting facts in a police report.

G. Submitting Questions About Scoring and Overrides to SARATSO Experts

If a person scoring an instrument has a question, he or she must first submit the question to a super-trainer for his or her agency. If the super-trainer is unable to answer the question, the super-trainer must submit it to the SARATSO expert for response. The method of submission is via the Risk Assessment Message Board. Probation and Parole can go to <http://clew.doj.ca.gov>, log in (may have to follow directions to obtain log-in information first), go to Sex Registration, then go to Risk Assessment Message Board. Click on Post a New Message, and specify which risk assessment instrument it pertains to in the subject line. The appropriate expert should get back to you shortly. If you need an immediate response you can contact the expert or SARATSO

² Courts have no discretion to order registration at sentencing for juveniles adjudicated on an offense that does not require mandatory juvenile registration (Pen. Code, § 290.008). (*In re Derrick B.* (2006) 39 Cal.4th 535.)

staff via e-mail, but please post the question anyway, so others can see it. All scorers should check the Risk Assessment Message Board regularly and keep up with the questions and answers. This will reduce repetitive questions.

For DMH personnel and SARATSO experts, the access to the Risk Assessment Message Board is at http://clew.doj.ca.gov/ra_login.asp. You will have to obtain log-in information from the SARATSO Committee.

Questions about overrides should also be submitted to the expert on the risk assessment instrument in question. Requests should come through the super-trainers. The request for the expert to determine if a risk level is too high or low should include defendant's name and case number, and factors in the record supporting the override request. The expert shall be guided by empirical research in determining whether to raise or lower the offender's risk level (not score), and his or her decision is final.

H. Tier Levels on the SARATSO Risk Assessment Instruments

1. Static-99

Low risk: 0-1

Low-moderate risk: 2-3

Moderate-high risk: 4-5

High risk: 6 and above

2. JSORRAT-II

Low risk: Score: 0

Moderate-low risk: 1-3

Moderate risk: Score: 4-7

Moderate-high risk: Score: 8 and above

III. DOCUMENTING & SUBMITTING SARATSO SCORE

A. Pre-Sentencing Scores

The risk assessment score should be made part of any pre-sentencing or probation report. (Pen. Code, § 1203.) If no such report is prepared, the standard paragraph about the score should be submitted on a separate document to the court prior to sentencing, and made available to the prosecutor and defense counsel. A process should be in place in the county that has either probation or the court clerk provide copies to those parties. In one county, the court orders misdemeanor sex offenders at the plea hearing to report to probation for the SARATSO evaluation. At the plea hearing in that county, the offender also signs the Notice of Requirement to Register as a Sex Offender (DOJ form SS 8047).

The score should also be recorded on the Facts of Offense sheet, which can be sent to DOJ beginning on January 1, 2009.³ Fax the Facts of Offense sheet to DOJ at 916-227-3663, or mail it to Department of Justice, SHOP, 4949 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95820. An electronic submission system is being developed. DOJ will post the risk assessment scores on the offender's record in the sex offender registry when the new registry is available, no later than July 1, 2010. The score will be accessible to law enforcement.

The Facts of Offense sheet should also be sent to CDCR for offenders sentenced to prison or to DMH for offenders placed in mental institutions, as part of the offender's file.

B. Correcting Scores in the Pre-Sentencing Report

If a score in a pre-sentencing report is later discovered to have been erroneous (for example, the instrument is re-scored post-sentencing by Probation and a mistake is discovered), Probation should file a motion in the superior court to correct the pre-sentencing report. At this point, if an offender wishes to request a new sentencing hearing, in light of the revised risk score, it will be the responsibility of his or her attorney to do so.

C. Approved Language for Submission of Scores to Courts

Use the one of the approved paragraphs below to submit the score to the sentencing court, or to explain why the person cannot be scored under the coding rules. Fill in the blanks about the percentile of risk for the individual offender by consulting the coding rules or scoring guidelines for the risk assessment instrument. The recidivism risk levels changed, due to new research, in 2009. Check the SARATSO web site for the new scoring worksheet. It has the new risk levels at the bottom. The scores did not change, just the recidivism risk level posed by an offender.

1. Static-99

The Static-99 was developed by Dr. Karl Hanson and Dr. David Thornton in 1999 as an actuarial risk instrument to estimate the likelihood that a sex offender will reoffend. (Hanson, R.K. & Thornton, D. (2000). Static-99: Improving risk assessments for sex offenders: A comparison of three actuarial scales. Law and Human Behavior, 24, 119-136.) It is the most frequently used actuarial tool in sex offender risk assessment. (*U.S. v. Hunt* (D.Mass. 2009) 643 F.Supp.2d 161, 172.) But as previously discussed, not all sexual offenders are eligible to be scored with this instrument. **NOTE: A score is not statistically valid if information is missing on any factor except living in an intimate relationship for 2+ years. Thus, a score is valid only if every factor is scored, with the one exception of the intimate relationship factor.**

³Submission of the Facts of Offense sheet is mandatory beginning July 1, 2010, but DOJ will be able to accept these starting January 1, 2009. You should have received further instructions about submitting these. For further guidance, contact the Department of Justice Investigative Services Program at 916-227-4131. The Guidelines for the Facts of Offense sheet are posted on the SARATSO web site, www.cdcr.ca.gov.

a. Static-99 Template Where Ineligible to be Scored

Current law requires that the risk assessment score on the Static-99 be done for every eligible person (Pen. Code, § 290.06). Although Mr. XX is required to register pursuant to Section 290, et seq., he is not eligible to be scored on the Static-99 under the official coding rules of the Static-99. According to these rules, the Static-99 is not recommended for use on an individual whose only offenses involve, e.g., consenting sexual activity with a similar age peer (meaning a 10-year or less age difference with a victim over 12), offering or soliciting prostitution services, or possessing child pornography when there is no identifiable named victim in the photos. In addition, the Static-99 is only available for males who are currently over the age of 18 years and who committed the eligible offense while at least 16 years old. Consequently, no risk assessment score is provided. His offense does not fit the criteria for those who can be assessed with this risk assessment tool.

b. Static-99 Template - Short Version

Mr. XX was scored on the Static-99,⁴ which is an actuarial measure of risk for sexual offense recidivism. This instrument has been shown to be a moderate predictor of sexual reoffense potential. Mr. SVP received a total score of XXX, which places him in the XXXX (choose one: Low, Moderate-Low, Moderate-High, or High) Risk Category for being charged or convicted of another sexual offense, if he is released on probation. Mr. XX was scored on the Static-99,[1][1] which is an actuarial measure of risk for sexual offense recidivism. This instrument has been shown to be a moderate predictor of sexual reoffense potential. Mr. SVP received a total score of XXX, which places him in the XXXX (choose one: Low, Moderate-Low, Moderate-High, or High) Risk Category for being charged or convicted of another sexual offense, if he is released on probation. His risk on release from a prison sentence cannot be calculated until his age on release on parole is known, so the risk score stated herein is predictive of risk based on his age on the date of this presentencing report. If Mr. XX has a prior conviction for a registrable sex offense, his risk score was calculated based on his age at release on the most recent registrable sex offense, or his age today if he had no prior registrable sex offense.

[Add only if the offender has had a non-sexual violent offense after the index sex offense: Because Mr. XX has had a non-sexually violent offense after his most recent sex offense then his risk is likely higher than that measured on the Static-99. That is because offenses committed after the most recent sex offense are not considered in Static-99 coding.]

The new sample on which the recidivism rates were derived included a sample of largely untreated sex offenders similar to those offenders in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. There was a 2009 update of the recidivism rates that now applies to scores from 0 to 10+. Mr. XX scored a XXX on the Static-99. The estimated risk for this score on the Static-99 is XXXX over five years.

⁴ Hanson, R.K. & Thornton, D. (2000). Static-99: Improving risk assessments for sex offenders: A comparison of three actuarial scales. Law and Human Behavior, 24, 119-136.

c. Static-99 Template - Long Version

Mr. XX was scored on the Static-99,⁵ which is an actuarial measure of risk for sexual offense recidivism. This instrument has been shown to be a moderate predictor of sexual reoffense potential. There have been a large number of studies examining the sexual recidivism rates associated with Static-99 scores. Helmus, Hanson & Thornton (2009) summarized the results of 23 samples of sexual offenders (number of offenders in studies = 8,139) drawn from different countries including Canada, the United States, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Western Europe. In the studies used to develop these norms, recidivism was defined as charges in about half of the cases and as convictions in the other half.

These recent studies found that the ability of Static-99 to rank relative risk is reasonably consistent across samples and settings, but the observed recidivism rates vary across samples. Specifically, the average recidivism rates associated with each score are lower in contemporary samples (1990s and more recent) than in the original developmental samples, who were primarily released during the 1970s and 1980s. Consequently, the developers of Static-99 recommended that the original norms be replaced by new norms based on samples that are more recent, more representative, and larger than the original samples. The new sample on which the recidivism rates were derived included a sample of largely untreated sex offenders similar to those offenders in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (number of offenders in routine samples =). There was a 2009 update of the recidivism rates that now applies to scores from 0 to 10+.

On the Static-99 Mr. XX received a total score of XXX, which places him in the XXXX (Choose one: Low, Moderate-Low, Moderate-High, or High) Risk Category for being charged or convicted of another sexual offense. The estimated risk for this score on the Static-99 is XXXX over five years.

His risk on release from a prison sentence cannot be calculated until his age on release on parole is known, so the risk score stated herein is predictive of risk based on his age on the date of this presentencing report. If Mr. XX has a prior conviction for a registrable sex offense, his risk score was calculated based on his age at release on the most recent registrable sex offense, or his age today if he had no prior registrable sex offense.

[Add only if the offender has had a non-sexual violent offense after the index sex offense: Because Mr. XX has had a non-sexually violent offense after his most recent sex offense then his risk is likely higher than that measured on the Static-99. That is because offenses committed after the most recent sex offense are not considered in Static-99 coding.]

2. JSORRAT-II

Juvenile male sex offenders who are adjudicated for a sex offense requiring juvenile registration (Pen. Code, § 290.008) should be assessed using the JSORRAT-II pre-sentencing if

⁵ Hanson, R.K. & Thornton, D. (2000). Static-99: Improving risk assessments for sex offenders: A comparison of three actuarial scales. *Law and Human Behavior*, 24, 119-136.

probation is recommending placement at CDCR/DJJ, providing the juvenile is not yet 18 at the time of the assessment. The JSORRAT-II is a juvenile sexual offender risk assessment tool developed by Epperson, Ralston, Fowers, & Dewitt (2005). It was designed to provide empirically based estimates of risk for future juvenile sexual offenses (juvenile sexual recidivism) by male juveniles currently in the juvenile justice system for a prior sexual offense. This instrument should not be used with female sexual offenders.

The JSORRAT-II is comprised of 12 items and produces estimates of risk for future juvenile sexual offending based upon the number and combinations of risk factors present in any one individual. The 12 risk factors scored on the risk assessment tool include the number of prior sexual offense adjudications, the number of different victims in sexual offenses, length of sexual offending, commission of a sexual offense while under court ordered supervision, commission of a felony level contact sexual offense in a public place, use of deception or grooming in a sexual offense, prior sex offender treatment failures, frequency of officially documented sexual abuse experienced as a victim, frequency of officially documented physical abuse experienced as a victim, placement in special education, history of discipline problems in school, and the number of non sexual offense adjudications.

The juvenile sexual recidivism estimates provided by the JSORRAT-II are group estimates based upon charges for new sexual offenses derived from groups of individuals scoring in the same range on the JSORRAT-II. As such, these estimates do not directly correspond to that of an individual offender. Any individual offender's risk may be higher or lower than the probabilities for their group given the presence or absence of risk factors not assessed by the tool; however, absent information on other compelling risk factors, the group estimate is generally the best estimate for individuals in a group.

a. JSORRAT - Standard Template

Mr. X received a score of XXXX on the JSORRAT II. This score is in the YYYY range of risk. On average, ZZZZ percent of individuals scoring in this range sexually recidivate as juveniles. This level of risk is deemed accurate in this case because there are no compelling additional risk factors that would alter this estimate.”

b. JSORRAT - Override Template

Use the following alternate paragraph only if Dr. Epperson has authorized an override on a juvenile risk level:

Although Mr. AAAA scores in the YYYY range of risk on the JSORRAT II, there are additional, compelling risk factors that override this risk estimate to a (higher or lower) level. Specifically, the following factors make a BBBB risk assignment more appropriate [list and discuss the factors].”

D. Scores Obtained Prior to Release from Prison or Mental Institutions

The risk assessment scores obtained prior to release from prison or a mental institution should be recorded in internal databases or spread sheets at CDCR or DMH. These scores are currently sent to DOJ as an Excel file, for eventual recording in the sex offender registry.

E. Scores of Offenders No Longer on Supervision

A plan for assessing these registrants was developed by the SARATSO Review and Training Committees in collaboration with local law enforcement and POST, enacted in S.B. 325, effective January 1, 2010. (Pen. Code, §§ 290.05(c), 290.06(c).) As explained above, it would give registering agencies the option to request a risk assessment from Probation on designated offenders, or to have their own personnel trained to perform assessments on those registrants chosen by the registering agency. When these offenders are assessed, the scores **must** be submitted to DOJ by either faxing a copy of their scoring sheet to 916-227-3663, or mailing a copy to Department of Justice, SHOP, 4949 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95820. Eventually these scores will be electronically submitted.

F. Access to Risk Assessment Scores

When the new California Sex and Arson Registry is completed at DOJ, the risk assessment scores will be posted on each offender's record in the registry and will be available to law enforcement, but not displayed on the public Megan's Law web site until 2012 (static and violence risk scores are required to be posted starting in 2012, per A.B. 1844, 2010 leg. sess.) For access to scores prior to posting in the California Sex and Arson Registry, law enforcement can call DOJ at 916-916-227-4736 or 4737.

IV. USE OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT SCORE

A. Sentencing Court Must Consider Score

The risk assessment score must be considered by the sentencing court as one factor in determining the sentence. (Pen. Code, § 1203.)

B. Determines Placement on Supervision and GPS Monitoring

The risk assessment score must be used to determine whether a sex offender is placed on intensive supervision on probation or parole. (Pen. Code, §§ 1203f, 3005.) Offenders who are high risk on the SARATSO must be continuously electronically monitored while on probation or parole. (Pen. Code, §§ 1202.8, 3004.)

C. Sex Offender Treatment Placement

The risk assessment score should be used to determine placement in an appropriate sex offender treatment program.

D. Risk Assessment Can Support Community Notification Decisions

Law enforcement has the discretion to do community notification registered sex offenders determined to pose a risk to the public. (Pen. Code, § 290.45.) The risk assessment score may assist in the determination that a particular registrant poses a current risk.

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